

Borough of Louth.



Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR

The Year 1946.

**PRINTED BY
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To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough of Louth.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present my Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary conditions of the Borough for the year 1946.

From the Statistics it will be noted that the birth rate, which remains the same as previous year, is higher than the rate for the country as a whole and the still births are below the national figures. The death rate exceeds the national rate, as might be expected on account of the relative age constitution of the populations. A reference to the ages at death table will show that only 31% of the total deaths occurred at ages under 65 years. All other comparisons with the national figures show the local rates to advantage.

Infectious disease notifications totalled less than the previous year and did not include cases of any serious nature. Scarlet Fever cases showed a higher incidence than usual as also did the cases of Sonnei Dysentery. All the latter cases **occurred in one of the** local hospitals and caused an overdue ruling to be made regarding the Isolation Hospital charges for treatment of patients from outside areas.

Diphtheria immunisations results continued to be excellent as the figures reveal. For "Boost" injections, attention was mainly concentrated on children aged 5 to 9 years and the response was highly satisfactory.

A higher number of cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis was notified than usual. Eleven of the 13 cases were adults. Unfortunately sanatorium vacancies continue to be scarce for male adult cases.

Under the remaining heads an indication of the work done and the supervision maintained can be gleaned from the information set out under each section.

Milk, ice cream and other vehicles more usually associated with infectious disease spread were subjected to strict supervision. An improvement in the cleanliness of milk and ice-cream production resulted from the follow-up visiting indicated by the results of the sample testing. This is the principal aim in the taking of samples—to determine by the results, cases requiring special supervision, and by the frequency of the tests, to stimulate vigilance where slack methods might otherwise occur.

I wish to thank the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee for their valued help and co-operation during the year. I also thank the Sanitary Inspector for his help in supplying sections of the information on which this report is based.

I remain,

Yours faithfully,

W. J. KERRIGAN,

Medical Officer of Health.

July, 1947.

Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Conditions for the Year 1946

Public Health Officers:

Medical Officer of Health:

W. J. KERRIGAN, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., L.M., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector and Housing Manager:

M. DOWSON, A.R.San.I., M.R.I.P.H.H.

Surveyor:

J. C. BARBER, A.M.Inst.M.& Cy.E.

Meat, Milk and Dairies Inspector (Part Time):

J. W. BEAUMONT, M.R.C.V.S.

SECTION A.

Social Conditions and Statistics.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area of Borough in acres	...	...	...	...	2,812
Registrar General's estimate of Resident Population, mid 1946	...	...	...	...	10,160
Number of Inhabited Houses	...	...	...	...	3,641
Rateable Value of Inhabited Houses	...	...	...	...	£38,822
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	...	...	...	...	£208

VITAL STATISTICS.

[NOTE.—Figures in brackets show corresponding rates for England and Wales.]

Births.

Live Birth Rate per 1,000 of estimated population	...	...	...	...	20.1	(19.1)
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 of all births	...	...	...	...	38	(53)

Live Births.		Total.	Male.	Female.
Legitimate	...	196	103	93
Illegitimate	...	8	2	6
		<hr/> 204	<hr/> 105	<hr/> 99
Still Births.		Total.	Male.	Female.
Legitimate	...	7	4	3
Illegitimate	...	1	—	1
		<hr/> 8	<hr/> 4	<hr/> 4

Deaths.		Total.	Male.	Female.
		149	69	80

Death Rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population 14.7 (11.5)

Deaths from Puerperal Causes (Headings 29 and 30 of the Registrar General's Short List:

		Deaths.	Rate per 1,000 Total Births.
No. 29. Puerperal Sepsis		Nil.	Nil.
No. 30. Other Maternal Causes		Nil.	Nil.

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age:

(a) All infants per 1,000 live births ... 34 (43)

(b) Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births 36

(c) Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births Nil

Deaths from Cancer (all ages) 18

Deaths from Measles (all ages) Nil

Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) ... Nil

Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) Nil

Ages at Death.

Years	0/1	1/5	5/15	15/25	25/35	35/45	45/55	55/65	65/75	Over 75	Total
	7	—	1	1	2	2	13	20	32	71	149

SECTION B.

General Provision of Health Services of the Area.

(a) Laboratory Facilities.

On bloc payment system, all bacteriological examinations are done at the Public Health Laboratory, Lincoln. The occasional chemical analyses required are done by a public analyst on fee per sample basis.

(b) Ambulance Facilities.

The County Infirmary and the Infectious Diseases Hospitals provide their own ambulances. An additional ambulance stationed in the Borough is made available by the British Red Cross Society as required.

The service appears adequate and satisfactory.

(c) Nursing in the Home.

The District Nursing Association, affiliated to the Queen's Institute of District Nursing, provides, at a nominal membership fee two nurses who undertake home nursing of sick and accident cases. The popularity of this service which was started the previous year is shown by the 80% household membership. The County Council supplies a midwife for domiciliary work, and in certain special cases of infectious disease, a nurse in the home.

(d) Treatment Centres and Clinics.

The comprehensive clinic facilities made available by the County Council at the Louth centre were referred to in detail in report of the previous year. These comprise consultant and treatment services in the various special departments connected with Maternity and Child Welfare, Health of the Schoolchild, Tuberculosis and Venereal Disease.

Hospitals.

The Borough is excellently serviced for general hospital needs, having the County Infirmary with 270 beds and the voluntary hospital with 57 beds, both of which institutions provide adequate consultative services in modern equipped buildings.

Isolation Hospitals.

Cases requiring hospital care are sent to either Grimsby Corporation Isolation or Osgodby Hospitals under the Council's agreement with the North-East Lindsey Joint Hospital Board. The majority of cases are sent to the former hospital which does not limit its acceptance to cases of particular types of disease,

SECTION C.

Sanitary Circumstances in the Area.

Water Supply.

No extension was made during the year to the houses, representing about 1% of the total, which depend on private supply.

As usual, the purity of the public supply was controlled by routine monthly bacteriological examinations. All the reports showed the absence of Coliform Bacilli and a negative or negligible plate count.

Only one chemical analysis was done, result of which is shown in Appendix.

Seven samples were taken from houses not connected to the public supply, representing sources of supply from five houses. Three of these were of fair quality, but double samples taken from two farm houses showed they were unsafe for domestic purposes.

Drainage and Sewerage.

The Public Health Committee initiated an investigation into the long-shelved problem of extending the public sewers to connect the 111 unsewered properties, the majority of which are sited on the Borough outskirts. Of these, 80 have dry closet system of which 52 are scavenged by the Corporation. As it was found that the great majority of the individual houses or groups presented their own problem, a Sub-Committee was appointed to determine the most practical solution compatible with expense, justifiable in consideration of the claims of other post-war urgencies.

It is to be hoped that at least a modified scheme will be approved and given its rightful place among the priorities.

In connection with the new housing site 2,100 yards of new sewer were laid and 80 yards of old sewer renewed.

The Sewage Disposal Works have been reported as working satisfactorily. Two analyses of the effluent—copy of result of one is shown in Appendix—showed the results to be up to accepted standard.

House Refuse.

Weekly collection was maintained and disposed of by incineration. The marked increase of the ash and dust content of the refuse produced investigation into the necessity for an accessory screening treatment before incineration, to improve working conditions. As this matter was complicated by the question of the necessity for a complete new destructor no decision was reached.

Nuisances.

(1) Abated as a result of informal action by Sanitary Inspector	132
(2) Statutory notice issued	12

Factories and Workshops Act, 1937.

(1) Visits made	68
(2) Infringements discovered and remedied ...	2

SECTION D.**Housing.****Total Number of New Houses Erected** during the year:—

(1) By the Local Authority ... Pre-fabricated	50
(2) By other Local Authorities	Nil
(3) By other bodies or persons	20

1. Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year by the Sanitary Inspector:—

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	186
(b) Number of Inspections made for the purpose	296
(2) (a) Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	38
(b) Number of Inspections made for the purpose	70
(3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	9
(4) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	29

2. Remedy of Defects during the year without service of Formal Notices:—

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	34
--	----

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year:—

(a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 36 of the Housing Act, 1936:

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	3
--	---

(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices—

(a) by owners	...	...	...	...	2
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners	...	...	...	...	Nil
(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts	...				Nil
(c) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936	...	...	...	...	Nil
(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936	...	...	...	...	Nil

4. Housing Act, 1936 (Part IV), Overcrowding:—

(a) (1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	...	...	...	...	19
(2) Number of families dwelling therein	...				29
(3) Number of persons dwelling therein	...				150
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	...	...	...	...	10
(c) (1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	...	...	...	...	12
(2) Number of persons concerned in such cases	...				77
(d) Number of houses again overcrowded after being previously relieved	...	...	...	...	Nil

Remarks.

(a) Overcrowding.—The Sanitary Inspector in his report on housing matters stresses that the 19 cases reported of legal overcrowding can only be regarded as minimal figures and bear no relation to the extent of cases of overcrowding from decency rather than legal standards.

It is suggested that the time has now arrived to end the laxity regarding the householders' responsibilities on overcrowding which was passively permitted by force of circumstances since the war. Stricter exercise of the Council's powers on these matters might act as a deterrent, particularly in those cases, liable to occur, where a state of unnecessary overcrowding could be created to enhance housing claims.

The housing survey revealed the very low standard of much of the old cottage property in the Borough. Many of these properties, originally bad from standards of health and reasonable comfort, have deteriorated through lack of repairs and renovations during the past eight years to the extent that they are now to be regarded as properties subject for action under the 1936 Housing Act.

In addition to the visits shown, the Sanitary Inspector spent considerable time investigating the living conditions of the 461 applicants for Council houses.

On the credit side, it is pleasing to record that 50 temporary houses were completed and occupied during the year, and some 60 of the 210 permanent houses, scheduled for completion in two years, were already in various stages of erection. This very satisfactory position of the building programme should go a long way to ease the acute problem and make way at a later stage for the more chronic slum clearance questions.

SECTION E.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

Slaughter Houses.

Number on Register: 2.

Number of Inspections: Daily.

Number of Contraventions of by-laws: Nil.

Carcases Inspected and Condemned.

	Oattle exclud- ingpows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed (if known	838	260	846	4151	122
Number inspected	843	263	850	4177	138
All diseases except Tuberculosis					
Whole carcases condemned	3	Nil.	7	13	Nil.
Carcases of which some part or organ was eon- demned	112	36	1	39	5
Percentage of number in- spected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	13.64	13.68	.94	1.24	3.62
Tuberculosis only					
Whole carcases condemned	2	7	1	1	5
Carcases in which some part or organ was con- demned	9	21	3	1	5
Percentage of number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	1.3	10.64	.47	.004	7.24

Cowsheds.

Inspections: Quarterly.

Contraventions of Regulations: Nil.

Dairies and Milkshops.

Inspections: Twice Yearly.

Contraventions of Regulations: Nil.

[The above information is from the report of the Meat, Milk and Dairies Inspector.]

Bakehouses.

Inspections: 50.

Contraventions of Regulations: Nil.

Milk.

There are five producers with accredited herds and ten producers of ungraded milk in the Borough in addition to the supplies of heat-treated milk which is almost entirely produced outside the area. The amount of the latter sold averages about 1,350 gallons weekly and represents 31% approximately of the total consumption.

Below are the results of analyses of samples done during during the year relating to: (a) Raw milk, cleanliness of production; (b) Results of heat treatment.

Type of Milk	Satisfactory Examinations	Unsatisfactory Examinations	Sampling Authority
Accredited	12	1	Lindsey C.C.
Ungraded	15—3 border-line	11	Louth M.B.
Heat-treated	25	6	Louth M.B.

There were 73 samples taken compared with 51 in 1945.

The satisfactory results are shown below as percentages, compared with the previous year:—

	1946.	1945.
Accredited ...	92%	89%
Ungraded ...	58%	36%
Heat-treated ...	81%	79%

Ice Cream.

During the year there were only seven retailers, four of whom were producers, the others sold a pre-packed ice cream manufactured by a reputable London firm.

Results of the analyses were as follow:—

Satisfactory: 11 (5 produced outside the Borough).

Unsatisfactory: 8 (4 produced outside the Borough).

The results were based on the Coliform test rather than plate counts, or on the combination. No investigations were made, as has since become the rule, regarding the presence

of faecal coli. These results merely served to indicate the necessity for special supervision in the cases of unsatisfactory samples.

An improvement was effected during the year on local production by insistence on hot mix manufacture and better attention to sterilization of equipment and cleanliness of handling.

SECTION F.

Prevalence of, and Control Over, Infectious and other Diseases.

Infectious Diseases other than Tuberculosis notified during 1946.

Disease	Total Cases Notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Smallpox	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	25	13	—
Diphtheria	1	1	—
Enteric Fever (including paratyphoid)	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	7	6	—
Pneumonia	3	—	—
Erysipelas	3	—	—
Chicken Pox	21	—	—
*Dysentery Sonnei	24	24	—
Measles	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	3	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	1	—
Totals	88	45	

* All these cases occurred at different times in a local hospital. 11 Cases were sent to Isolation Institutions and remainder were nursed in the hospital.

The case of diphtheria was an adult.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

Immunised during 1946.

(a)	0 to 4 years	220	(197 Births Registered for 1945)
(b)	5 to 14 years	43	
(c)	Boost Doses	357	

Estimated % of Children Immunised

(a) 1 to 4 Group 94%

(b) 5 to 14 Group 95%

The following show the percentages of children immunised at the schools in the Borough as checked by surveys :—

Name of School	No. on Roll	% Immunised
Open Air School ...	21	100%
Kidgate (Jnr.) ...	400	98.3%
*Girls' Grammar School ...	134	96.3%
*Boys' Grammar School ...	127	95.3%
Eastfield Road (Jnr.) ...	303	95. %
Monks Dyke (Senr.) ...	259	94.2%
Private Schools (Jnr.) ...	90	91. %
St. Michael's (Jnr.) ...	154	89. %
* Only Scholars under 15 years included.		

Tuberculosis: New Cases and Mortality during 1946.

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0				1				1
1								
5	2		1					
15		1		1				
25	3	2						
35	1	2						
45	1							
55						1		
65 & upwards ...	1							
Totals ...	8	5	1	2	—	1	—	1

Appendix 1.

Causes of Death in the Borough of Louth.

Causes of Death	1946	
	Males	Females
1. Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fever	—	—
2. Cerebro Spinal Fever	—	—
3. Scarlet Fever	—	—
4. Whooping Cough	—	—
5. Diphtheria	—	—
6. Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	—	1
7. Other forms of Tuberculosis	—	1
8. Syphilitic Diseases	—	—
9. Influenza	1	—
10. Measles	—	—
11. Acute Poliomyelitis and Polioencephalitis	—	—
12. Acute Infectious Encephalitis	—	—
13. Cancer of buccal cavity and oesophagus (male) and uterus (female)	—	2
14. Cancer of stomach and duodenum	1	1
15. Cancer of breast	—	2
16. Cancer of all other sites	6	6
17. Diabetes	1	—
18. Intra cranial vascular lesions	8	15
19. Heart disease	23	27
20. Other diseases of circulatory system	2	4
21. Bronchitis	2	5
22. Pneumonia	2	—
23. Other respiratory diseases	—	1
24. Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	—	—
25. Diarrhoea under two years	—	—
26. Appendicitis	—	—
27. Other digestive diseases	4	2
28. Nephritis	1	1
29. Puerperal and post-abortion sepsis	—	—
30. Other maternal causes	—	—
31. Premature birth	5	—
32. Congenital malformation, birth injury, infantile diseases	1	—
33. Suicide	1	—
34. Road traffic accidents	—	—
35. Other violent causes	2	1
36. All other causes	9	11
Totals	69	80

Appendix 2.

October, 1946.

CERTIFICATE OF ANALYSIS.

The Sample of **WATER.**

Received from the Borough of Louth on the 25th day of October, 1946. Sample taken 23rd October.

Has been examined with the following results:—

	Parts per Million.
Total Solids dried at 100°C.	280.000
Free Ammonia	0.084
Albuminoid Ammonia	0.030
Chlorine as Chlorides	16.500
Nitrogen as Nitrates	0.500
Free Chlorine	0.05

Bacteriological Examination.

Colonies per 1 m. 1. on Nutrient Gelatine after 72 hours	Nil
Colonies per 1 m. 1 on Agar after 48 hours	Nil
Probable number of B.Coli per 100 m. 1	Nil

This Water is satisfactory in all respects for a Public Supply.

CERTIFICATE OF ANALYSIS.

The Sample of **SEWAGE EFFLUENT.**

Received from the Borough of Louth on the 25th day of October, 1946. Sample taken 23rd October.

Has been examined with the following results:—

Total Solids dried at 100°C.	42.0
consisting of—	
Volatile Organic Matter	12.0
Mineral Matter	30.0
Free Ammonia	0.240
" " as Nitrogen	0.195
Albuminoid Ammonia	0.096
" " as Nitrogen	0.079
Chlorine as Chlorides	5.650
Nitrogen as Nitrates	0.400
Nitrogen as Nitrites	0.100
Total Sulphur as S	2.740
Unoxidised Sulphur as S	Nil
Sulphuretted Hydrogen	Nil
Oxygen absorbed from N/80 Perman- ganate in 15 mins.	0.202

Oxygen absorbed from N/80 Permanganate in 4 hours	...	...	...	0.453
Dissolved Oxygen absorbed in 5 days				
B.O.D. Test	...	...	...	0.262
Sediment	...	...	...	1.760
consisting of—				
Volatile Organic Matter	...		0.96	
Mineral Matter	...	...	0.80	
pH Value: 8.5				

This is a good quality effluent and complies in all respects with the Sewage Commissioners Standards.

(Signed) J. R. HUNECKE, B.Sc.(Hons.), A.R.I.C.
Consulting Analyst.

